1948, a generating company may enter into a contract for the sale of electricity generated by it with any other person with the consent of the competent Government or Governments. There is no proposal to amend this provision of the Electricity (Supply) Act. However, the Ministry of Power has drafted a comprehensive legislation seeking to consolidate and amend the exisitng three legislation's *viz.* Indian Electricity Act, 1910, Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998.

Setting up Gas based Power Plants in Gujarat

408. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more gas based power plants in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when these proposals are pending;

(d) whether any tenders were invited;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the above bids were treated as non-responsive and decided to rebid; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (g) The Government of Gujarat have recommended the following power projects to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC).

(1) 106.617 MW Gas based Power Plant at Dhuvran by Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited.

(2) Hazira Combined Cycle Power Project (156 MW) by Gujarat State Energy Generation Limited.

TEC in respect of Hazira Combined Cycle Power Project has been accorded by CEA in September, 2000. In respect of Dhuvran Project,

the Detailed Project Report was received in CEA on 30.3.2000. The TEC for the project was held up due to non-availability of important inputs/clearances, and subsequent changes in EPC contract.

In addition to above projects, the National, Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) had planned expansion of Kawas, Jhanor-Gandhar gas power stations by adding 650 MW generating capacity at each of these stations. As additional gas linkage was not available, expansion of these projects was planned with Naphtha as a bridge fuel with provision to switch over to LNG, as and when it bacame available. TEC from CEA was obtained in August, 1998 and November, 1998 for Kawas and Jhanor-Gandhar projects respectively. The bids for main plant package for Kawas were invited in September, 1998 and the bids for main plant package for Jhanor-Gandhar clubbed with Kawas were invited in November, 1998. The bids for these projects were opended on 30-6-1999. Two bids were received: one from BHEL and other from ABB. Since the bids received were non-responsive, NTPC decided to go for rebidding.

However, in view of the abnormal increase in Naphtha prices in the recent past, NTPC has decided to match commissioning of these projects with the availability of imported regasified LNG at a reasonable price. In view of the estimated cost of generation at about Rs. 4 per unit, NTPC had sought reconfirmation from beneficiaries for availing power from these expansion projects at this indicative price to enable NTPC to take up construction of these projects. A number of beneficiaries have expressed their unwillingness to purchase power at this high cost of generation. NTPC will, therefore, take up further processing of these expansion proposals and further action towards bidding for main equipment only after confirmation of LNG at a reasonable firm price and acceptance of the cost of generation based on LNG price by the beneficiaries.